REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 2, 3 and 5-10 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 4 are pending.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims 1 and 4 and have been amended and claims 2, 3 and 5-10 have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to "the invention" is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this Application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this Application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Specification Objections

The Examiner objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter: "serial-parallel converting data", "parallel-serial converting data", "data received from the outside", etc. As amended, claims 1 and 4 do not recite "serial-parallel converting data", "parallel-serial converting data", or "data received from the outside". Therefore, the objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement and required the claims to be revised.

The Examiner asserted that the claimed "serial-parallel converting data" and "parallel-serial converting data" are not described in the specification. As amended, neither claim 1 nor claim 4 recite the "serial-parallel converting data" and "parallel-serial converting data". Moreover, per the Examiner's requirement, the claims have been revised. Therefore, the rejection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Brotto et al. (USP. 6,218,806). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Brotto discloses a battery comprising a memory in which information related to the battery is stored. The battery 30 of Brotto, as illustrated in Brotto's Fig. 2, comprises a controller 31 and a memory 33, where the memory 33 stores information related to the battery 30, such as temperature, length of charging process, etc. The controller 31 sends the information stored in the memory 33 to an external reader 50 through a battery contact 13.

Brotto's controller 31 stores information related to the battery 30 in the memory 33. The information stored in the memory after the start of using the battery 30 (post-start storage) includes temperature and length of charging process. Moreover, Brotto's product use information is stored subsequent to the start of using the battery (see Brotto, 1:12-15, 1:32-33).

As claimed in claims 1 and 4, information for identifying a device or a charger able to use the battery is stored at the time of shipment from a manufacture (see paragraphs [0030], [0032]).

The device or charger can decide whether the battery is able to be used therein or not, by

verifying a coincidence between (i) the information read out from the memory and (ii) its own device ID or charger ID stored in its own memory (see paragraphs [0031], [0033]).

In turn, when specific batteries for devices and chargers are designated in advance, the devices and the chargers are able to detect an instance where unexpected batteries, such as batteries of a pirated copy, have been loaded into the device or charger.

In contrast, Brotto's devices and chargers do not detect the loading of unexpected batteries, by the information which is stored in the memory 33 after the start of using the battery 30.

Brotto further describes that a controller 21 stores in memory 25 information related to a charger 20 (see Brotto, 2:51-52). Brotto's controller 21 and memory 25 are installed, not in a battery 10, but in the charger 20 provided outside the battery 10 (see Brotto, Fig. 1). Because Brotto's storage section is provided outside the battery, Brotto does not disclose the claimed storage section limitation.

Additionally, Brotto's information related to the charger 20 stored in the memory 25 is information such as the number of NiCd batteries charged, the number of NiMH batteries charged, etc. (see Brotto, 2:52-58). Thus, Brotto's information is obtained after the start of using the battery 10. Since Brotto's information is not stored at the time of shipment from a manufacture, Brotto does not anticipate claims 1 or 4.

Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

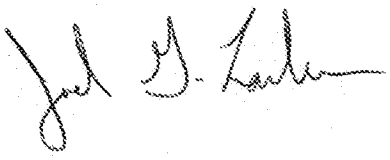
It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependent claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 22, 2006



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